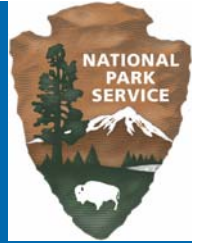




NRC Watershed Condition Assessment Program

Introduction

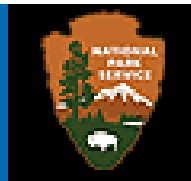




Conditions

- 3 New Program Initiatives
 - New NPS Planning Paradigm (a context)
 - New DOI Strategic Plan (a reason)
 - NRC Program to Assess Conditions of Watersheds (an approach w/ funding)





New NPS Planning Paradigm

- Based upon the concept of managing for “desired conditions”

- GMP's
- VERP
- RSP's
- WRMP's





DOI Strategic Plan

➤ Land Health Goal: Outcome Measures

- Water Quality
- Water Quantity
- Air Quality
- Wetland Conditions
- Stream/Riparian Conditions
- Upland Conditions
- Coastal/Marine Conditions





Goal Language

- eg, “Percent of wetland acres achieving desired conditions as specified in management plans”
- Requires 3 things:
 - Delineation of Landscape Units (e.g., wetlands) – planning GIS
 - A management plan with measurable statements of desired conditions - RSP
 - Knowledge of current conditions over the spatial extent of the landscape unit – synthesis and assessment



NRC – Watershed Condition Assessments

- Long Story
 - Clean Water Action Plan
- Federal Unified Approach
- NPS Budget Strategy
 - Bingo!



Designing a Watershed Condition Assessment Program



➤ PROGRAM

- Park-based project program
- Link to and support condition information needs of RSP's
- Support both synthesis of existing information, acquisition of new information, and development of objectives
- Conscious of linkage to DOI-Plan (wetlands, uplands, stream/riparian, coastal/marine)

Designing a Watershed Condition Assessment Program (cont.)



➤ PROJECTS

- Parks need to define project needs
- Assessments should be conducted using a published/referenced process, procedure, or protocol
- A compendium and evaluation of available W/S Condition Assessment Methods was needed
- Program should be able to consider the special interactions that occur between upland watersheds and coastal/marine resources

[illegible]



Program Design Needs

- Design the Project Program
- Fully Integrate With:
 - Resource Stewardship Planning
 - Vital Signs Monitoring
 - State-of-the-Parks Roll-Ups
 - DOI Strategic Plan Reporting

